

INTRODUCING A BILL TO PROVIDE MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR COM- PRESSION SLEEVES

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Ms. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill to provide Medicare coverage for compression sleeves and stockings used to treat lymphedema.

Lymphatic obstruction is the blockage of the lymph vessels, which drain fluid from tissues throughout the body. Lymphedema causes painful swelling in the arms or legs.

Lymphedema occurs in 10-15% of the women who receive mastectomies, but lymphatic obstruction can be caused by many things including trauma, tumors, and post-surgical and post-radiation therapy.

A compression sleeve or stocking will compress the swollen tissues caused by lymphedema and prevent fluid from building up. A compression sleeve can help control the pain, yet Medicare does not cover compression sleeves and stockings. My bill will correct this oversight.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and help women who have undergone a mastectomy and now suffer from lymphedema.

THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed into law the Taiwan Relations Act, which has enabled Taiwan to prosper and grow to become an ally of the United States. In the last two decades, Taiwan has had many achievements. The economy of Taiwan has flourished to the point where the country is regarded as an economic superpower. Politically, Taiwan has transformed into an open, multi-party democracy, home to more than 93 political parties, and a nation that respects the human and civil rights of its citizens. There are many reasons for Taiwan's phenomenal success, but one reason is the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Over twenty years ago, the United States signaled to the world that we recognize the legitimate rights and aspirations of the people of Taiwan, and over twenty years ago, the United States created a mechanism to preserve and protect the freedom of the Taiwanese people. The Taiwan Relations Act worked, and has been instrumental in preserving peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait since its enactment in 1979.

Taiwan is a model for democratic transformation that I hope the People's Republic of China will one day emulate, not threaten. I join the Taiwanese people in seeking a peaceful resolution to the tensions between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. The United States will continue to be an ally of the Taiwanese and assist in maintaining the security and stability of Taiwan. We must also help Taiwan to participate in international activities

and organizations such as the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the United Nations. I look forward to broadening and deepening our friendship with Taiwan for the mutual benefit of the people of both the United States and Taiwan.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and the world community in commemorating Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Scarcely 50 years ago we saw the end to World War II and one of the most heinous atrocities humanity has ever borne witness to. Hitler's Nazi regime was responsible for the murders of nearly six million Jewish men, women and children and more than 11 million people in total.

This memorial holiday is intended to insure that we never forget that tragedy and the lives lost. At a time when our own nation is battling similar destructive forces of hatred in the form of terrorism, it is imperative that we never forget our history and evil's legacy.

To keep this critical knowledge from being lost, it is our responsibility as a nation to teach our children about their past. In this spirit, I have introduced H.R. 1620, the Holocaust Education Assistance Act. This bill will provide funding to educational institutions and organizations, enabling them to teach the generations to come about the crimes of the Holocaust.

Upon receiving the Nobel Prize for Peace, the late Prime Minister of Israel Yitzchak Rabin said:

"We will pursue the course of peace with determination and fortitude. We will not let up. We will not give in. Peace will triumph over all its enemies, because the alternative is grimmer for us all. And we will prevail."

Ensuring that we never forget the past is a crucial step to realizing peace in our future.

IN TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MATTHEW A. COMMONS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Private First Class Matthew A. Commons, an American hero.

PFC Commons died on March 4, 2002 in Afghanistan while trying to rescue another American soldier. He was one of eight servicemen killed that day during an intensive battle with the Taliban and al Qaeda. PFC Matthew A. Commons was a professional soldier, a man who had earned the respect of his fellow soldiers, and he is remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Matthew Commons was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, raised in Indianapolis and also lived in Boulder City, Nevada and Alexandria, Virginia. In high school, Matthew was an

accomplished honor student and class officer. He then spent a year at the University of Nevada at Reno, but decided in July 2000 to become an Army Ranger because he wanted to serve his country. He had planned to finish college after his four-year tour and become a history teacher like his father. In December 2001, he visited his father's history classes at Carl Sandburg Middle School in full battle fatigues to discuss his life as a Ranger. Matthew had also recently celebrated his 21st birthday with his Army buddies, a celebration that included hats and banners sent by his mother Patricia Marek, who had just moved to Alexandria, Virginia.

Matthew's Army unit had been sent to Afghanistan on a secret assignment in January. Through he frequently spoke by telephone with his father, he had not been allowed to disclose his location. In speaking of his son, Greg recently said, "I'm real proud of him. He loved his family, he loved his country and he loved the Rangers. . . . He gave his life to save the life of another Ranger."

Military service is not new to the Commons family. Both of Matthew's grandfather's served in World War II, where his grandfather Marek earned a Purple Heart. Additionally, Matthew's father Greg served in the Marines in the Vietnam War.

Besides his mother and father, Matthew leaves his brother Aaron, his father's second wife Linda Chapman, and two half-brothers, Thomas and Patrick. Matthew, who was buried at Arlington cemetery, has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with V Device for Valor.

Mr. Speaker, I hold out the example of this fine young man, a great American, who paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom and liberty. I know I speak for the entire Congress when I extend sympathies to the entire Commons family and friends who are grieving during this difficult time. May they be comforted by the precious memories of their beloved son and brother.

As a veteran myself, I greatly appreciate the unique challenges faced by the men and women serving in our military today. It is the ultimate sacrifice when a soldier dies for his country. We are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of men like Matthew Commons and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have given their lives in the fight for American principles over the past 226 years.

Matthew Commons answered the call of his country, and his death will forever place his name on the roll of heroes who sacrificed their own lives to protect the lives of others. His life and unyielding commitment to duty and honor should remind us all that the liberties we enjoy do not come without a price. Let us always remember these costs, and always remember Private First Class Matthew A. Commons.

THE FEDERAL COURTS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, Representative Howard